

City of Sunnyvale
Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA)
Notes from April 12, 2006 meeting

Attendees: James Rea (Chair), Teri Adams (Vice Chair), Tony Maranon, James Rea, Jeanne Yeager
Absent: Corinne McCourt (Excused)

Staff: Coryn Campbell, Neighborhood and Community Resources Manager
 (ADA Coordinator)
 Marvin Rose, Director of Public Works
 Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Manager
 Robert Paternoster, Director of Community Development

I. Welcome

Coryn announced the results of the ACA officer elections: Jim Rea, Chair and Teri Adams, Vice Chair. Jim welcomed ACA members and opened the meeting. The ACA voted to excuse both absences of Corinne McCourt, and the ADA Coordinator concurred with their recommendation to continue Corinne's membership on the committee.

II. Briefing on Status of Access to Sunnyvale Cal Train Station

Jack Witthaus gave a presentation on the background and current status of access to the Sunnyvale Caltrain station. Currently, there is no Caltrain authorized access from the north side of the train tracks. While the Caltrain right of way is under the authority of Caltrain, about a year ago and with Council approval, the City began collaborations with Caltrain to explore new access options that might provide access from north of the Caltrain tracks to the Sunnyvale station and downtown Sunnyvale. The City secured grant funding from VTA and is exploring options for possible improvements.

A community meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 7:00p.m. at the Community Center to gather public input regarding access options. Following the meeting, a report will be presented to Council outlining the access options, summarizing results of the community meeting, and making an access recommendation. The City Council will have the opportunity to adopt an official City position, which will be forwarded to Caltrain. Jack explained that only ADA-compliant options will be presented and/or endorsed.

The ACA appreciated the quality of Jack's presentation, concurred with the City's approach, and provided the following input:

- They are supportive of pursuing a short term, ADA-approved access from Hendy, as well as planning for a long-term solution.
- If the short term solution is a switchback ramp, they recommend installing a gate at the fence line to keep young children safely away, and to discourage skateboarders.
- As a possible short term alternative to an access from Hendy, the committee suggested improvements to the existing Sunnyvale Ave. sidewalk and crossing. There are utility poles at the intersection of Sunnyvale and Hendy that limit maneuverability. Additional concrete paving or optimally, relocation would improve access. A raised edge on the curb and corner cut may also be useful if it did not create a tripping hazard.
- Also, installation of a pedestrian gate would potentially be beneficial.

III. City Project #821870: Borregas Ave. Bicycle Corridor for ACA Input

Jack presented drawings of how this bicycle friendly corridor, including two bridges on Borregas Ave., is planned. The bridges over 101 and 237 pass will be alternatives to the current Mathilda Ave. overpasses. The design phase of this project is 95% complete. Construction is anticipated to begin next spring and will last about 1.5 years. ACA input was that the overpass would be welcome, and that it is well-

designed. There was a concern raised about skateboarders/bikes potentially going too fast. Jack noted that signs would be posted to address this (discussions with parents have indicated that the slope was such that the ramp would not be very attractive to skateboarders). Jack also reviewed the intersection modifications, including sidewalks on Borregas, to ensure a good pedestrian connection to the overpasses, which the ACA concurred with.

IV. Private Development/ACA

Bob Paternoster provided an update on the Downtown: the mall will be demolished; Target and Macy's will remain; the historic street grid will be largely recreated. Bob noted that ACA input on privately owned public areas such as the Redwood Square area planned for the new downtown would be helpful to staff. He asked that Coryn schedule review of the Redwood Square area for the next ACA meeting.

Regarding private development, Bob explained that building permits are not discretionary; if the plan meets the code, the permit must be issued. Therefore, conditions over and above State requirements for accessibility cannot be added. However, if Committee members identify access issues with private development projects, Ali Fatapour, the City's Building Official, would be glad to meet with them to discuss the issues and to take steps to try to avoid such issues in the future. An ACA member wondered why the remodeling of Stoddard's did not require accessibility to the upstairs, which he thought had not been done in compliance with ADA. Bob said he would look into this and get back to the ACA.

V. Discussion: Ranking of Active City Projects for ACA Input

Marvin led this discussion by noting that at this time ranking by ACA may not be needed since projects proceed at different rates and staff will bring all of the noted projects to the ACA for input as they enter the appropriate stage. He asked that the ACA review the project sheets that had been distributed to them, and to let Coryn know if there were any projects they would like to review that were not included. He reviewed the City's projects budgets guide, and the criteria that staff uses to determine how the City ranks a project. There was some discussion about why the ACA would review bike lanes, and Marvin indicated that bike lanes also may affect sidewalks and traffic signals (including those on median islands). ACA members concurred that they would like to provide input to these plans.

The issue of curb cuts was raised. Marvin indicated that the City uses approximately \$100,000 of Community Development Block Grant funding annually to install ADA compliant curb cuts in the following priority order:

- High traffic areas
- Routes that a disabled person uses routinely
- As curb issues develop and need replacement

If ACA members learn of a person who has a non-accessible route, let Coryn know so that she can notify the Department of Public Works.

A question was raised about driveways: will the City pay to redo a driveway that dips and is difficult for a wheelchair to navigate? Marvin noted that driveways are the homeowner's responsibility. Another ACA member said she had need to have a ramp installed to her residence, and was glad to learn that the City has a grant program for residential ramps. Unfortunately she was a bit over the income eligibility threshold, but installing a ramp is still quite costly, and she wondered if the City might explore prorating that grant funding according to income level. Coryn said she would forward this request for review by the Housing Office. It was requested that if possible the Housing Officer attend the next meeting to discuss the grants program.

VI. ADA Complaint Process

Coryn distributed the City's ADA Complaint Procedures brochure. She noted that it was in the process of being updated, and hoped to have the updated brochure completed by the end of June. The City's basic

practice is that ADA complaints that come to the City are forwarded the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator routes them to the appropriate department director for review and response, with final approval of the City's response by the Assistant City Manager. Appeals of the City's response can be made to the City Manager

There was a question about how the City handles stores that are not ADA accessible (i.e. so much stuff in the aisles that wheel chairs cannot get around). Coryn noted that she had not yet received this kind of complaint, but would find out what the process would be, and if the City has any jurisdiction over this type of complaint.

A question was also raised about what recourse the City has if a private remodeling has not been done up to ADA compliance, what action will the City take? Coryn said she would also research this issue and report back to the ACA at the next meeting.

VIII. Other Business

Project Sentinel presentation: The ACA concurred with Coryn's recommendation to defer the Housing Accessibility presentation by Project Sentinel until after the summer *Quarterly Report* is published so the presentation could be included for publicity purposes. Tentatively, the ACA agreed that a September presentation might work well. Coryn noted that the Department of Public Safety has re-created four accessible parking spaces in its parking lot.

Proposed topics for the June 14 meeting are:

- ACA Input on Project #825630, Mary Ave. Extension Engineering/Environmental Analysis (plan to extend Mary Ave. over Highway 101)
- Discussion with Housing Officer: prorating costs of installing residential ramps
- Presentation from Public Safety: Enforcement of Handicap Parking Violations
- Feedback from staff on including "No Parking" on striped portion of accessible parking spaces
- One-year review of the progress and role of the ACA, and recommended path forward.

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Handouts:

Active Projects List; Projects Budget Guide; Project Information Sheets; Revised 2/8/06 Meeting Minutes; ADA Complaint Procedures;

Next Meeting: June 14, 2006, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the West Conference Room at City Hall – Please confirm attendance with Michelle Zahraie at (408) 730-7489 or mzahraie@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us by 6/9/06.